

PD-08-970/08.10.2020

## OPINION

on the materials submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position "Professor" in professional field 6.5 "Forestry", scientific specialty "Forest reclamation, forest protection and special uses", announced by the Institute of Forestry - BAS in SG no. 44 / 04.06.2019

### **Candidate for participation in the competition:**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Margarita Ilieva Georgieva

### **Prepared the opinion:**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Katya Georgieva Trencheva - professional field 6.2 „Plant Protection“ - University of Forestry

### **1. Brief biographical data**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Margarita Ilieva Georgieva graduated in 1993 from the Technical School of Forestry "Hristo Botev" in Velingrad. In 1998 he graduated from the University of Forestry - Sofia and acquired a Master's degree in Forestry. In the period 2004 - 2009 she was a doctoral student at the Institute of Forestry, BAS, Department of Forest Entomology, Phytopathology and Hunting Fauna. In 2010 he acquired Ph.D at the National Academy of Forestry, Forest Protection and Special Use in Forests (Forest Protection) with the topic of the doctoral dissertation "Diseases of the *Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Mirb) .Franco) and their impact on the introduction of the species in Bulgaria". From 1998 until now Assoc. Prof. Dr. Margarita Ilieva Georgieva works at the Institute of Forestry, BAS, Department of Forest Entomology, Phytopathology and Hunting Fauna, holding the following positions - from 1998 to 2006 she was a Forestry Engineer, from 2006 to 2015 she was an assistant and chief assistant, from 23.01.2015 until now she is an associate professor. Since 2017 she has been the Scientific Secretary of the Forest Institute, BAS. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Margarita Ilieva Georgieva has been working at the Institute of Forestry, BAS for 21 years. During the period 2010 - 2015, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Margarita Ilieva Georgieva participated in 5 training courses in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sweden and Belgium as follows:

- Training schools "Molecular taxonomy, phylogeny and ecology", CEBDER Project, Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research, BAS, Sofia, Bulgaria, 22-26 February 2010;
- Training School "Detection and Diagnosis of Dothistroma Needle Blight", COST Action FP1102, Mendel University, Brno, Czech Republic, 21-25 May 2012;
- Training School "Field and laboratory methods for detection of invasive insect pests and pathogens" (COST Action FP1002) University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 1-7 July 2013;
- Training School "Molecular Detection and Population Genetics of Dothistroma Needle Blight Pathogens", COST Action FP1102, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden, 3-7 March 2014;
- Training School "Concepts of biological invasion, EU plant health regulation, and risk analysis" COST Action FP140, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium, 13-15.07.2015.

In the period 2007 - 2020 Assoc. Prof. Dr. Margarita Ilieva Georgieva was the leader of 6 research projects, participated in the development of over 30 national and international projects. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Margarita Ilieva Georgieva is a research supervisor of 2 doctoral students (part-time and full-time) in the scientific specialty "Forest reclamation, forest protection and special uses in forests" at the Institute of Forestry, BAS. She has participated as a scientific consultant in the development of diploma theses at the Faculty of Forestry at University of Forestry. She is a member of prestigious Bulgarian and international organizations.

## **2. Conformity of the submitted documents and materials of the applicant with the minimum requirements, according to the Regulations for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions in the Institute of Forestry - BAS.**

The submitted documents and materials, as well as the scientometric indicators of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Margarita Ilieva Georgieva for participation in a competition for the academic position "Professor" in the field of higher education 6. "Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine", professional field 6.5 "Forestry farm" have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Law on Forestry and the Regulations on the Terms and Conditions for Acquisition of Scientific Degrees and for Occupying Academic Positions at the Forest Institute at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. The presented materials exceed the minimum required points by groups of indicators for holding the academic position "Professor", in the professional field 6.5 Forestry. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Margarita Ilieva Georgieva has completed 2,836 points with a minimum requirement of 650 points.

## **3. General description of the submitted materials.**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Margarita Ilieva Georgieva participates in the competition for the academic position "Professor" in the field of higher education 6. "Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine", professional field 6.5 Forestry with 71 publications, of which 49 scientific papers in English language and 22 in Bulgarian as follows:

- Scientific publications in publications that are referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information - 12 pcs.
- Articles and reports published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information - 31 pcs.
- Articles and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes - 22 pcs.
- Studies published in unrefereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes - 1 pc.
- Other / popular science / - 5 pcs.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Margarita Ilieva Georgieva is the 1st author of 20 publications, the 2nd author of 9 publications and the 3rd and next of 42 publications.

#### **4. Main directions in the research work of the candidate and the most important scientific and scientific-applied contributions.**

The research work of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Margarita Ilieva Georgieva is related to the following more important areas:

- Study of bioecological features and distribution of pathogens in forest tree species;
- Study of bioecological features of insect pests. Scientific contributions stem from the identification of infiltrated foreign invasive insect pests and the elucidation of the bioecological features of local, economically significant pests;
- Parasitoids and entomopathogens by economically significant insect pests - parasitoids and entomopathogens;
- Monitoring the health of forest ecosystems and urban areas;
- Multi-year monitoring of the health status in forest ecosystems;
- Use of remote sensing methods for health assessment in forest ecosystems and urban environment.

The most important scientific and scientific-applied contributions of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Margarita Ilieva Georgieva are related to the study of the bioecological features of fungal pathogens and insect pests causing damage to forest trees and shrubs, an assessment of the expansion of their geographical distribution and establishment of new hosts, the impact of natural pests for biological pest control (parasitoids and entomopathogens) and virulent fungal pathogens was studied, the health of forest ecosystems and green areas in urban areas was monitored by using observation. New fungal pathogens for the mycosis of Bulgaria have been identified, causing damage to seedlings of economically important tree species in forest nurseries and plantations.

#### **5. Reflection of the candidate's scientific publications in the literature.**

Proof of the high quality of the scientific production of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Margarita Ilieva Georgieva is the number of citations presented. A total of 141 citations were noted, of which 90 in referenced and indexed editions in world databases (Scopus, Web science), 14 in monographs or collective volumes with scientific review and 37 in non-refereed editions with scientific review. In the presented reference - self-assessment by the candidate for implementation of the scientometric indicators for Category D are presented 1,675 points with a required minimum of 200 points.

#### **6. Participation in research projects.**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Margarita Ilieva Georgieva presented information about her participation in 23 international and national scientific and applied projects. She is the leader of 1 international research project for bilateral cooperation between Bulgaria and Serbia and of 5 national research projects funded by BAS, MES and MAF. She has participated in 10 national and 7 international projects as an expert in phytopathology and entomopathogens.

**7. Teaching and learning activities (supervisor / consultant of doctoral students, student training, etc.)**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Margarita Ilieva Georgieva is a research supervisor of 2 doctoral students (part-time and full-time) in the scientific specialty "Forest reclamation, forest protection and special uses in forests" at the Institute of Forestry, BAS. She has participated as a scientific consultant in the development of diploma theses at the Faculty of Forestry at University of Forestry.

**8. Assessment of the personal contribution of the candidate.**

The personal participation of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Margarita Ilieva Georgieva in the conducted scientific and scientifically applied research and presented scientific papers is indisputable. Most of the publications are the result of the development of a significant number of research projects. Proof of the high quality of the scientific production is the significant number of presented citations.

**9. Critical remarks and recommendations.**

I have no critical remarks on the presented materials.

**10. Personal impressions.**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Margarita Ilieva Georgieva is a motivated and purposeful researcher, a proven expert in the field of phytopathology.

**11. Conclusion.**

In connection with the above, I propose that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Margarita Ilieva Georgieva be elected "Professor" in the professional field 6.5 "Forestry", scientific specialty "Forest reclamation, forest protection and special uses."

Date 08.10.2020

Prepared by:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Katya Trencheva